

Overview: What Pediatricians Need to Know

Disease Burden

United States:*

- 20,000 infants born annually to hepatitis B surface antigen-positive (HBsAg-positive) women
- 1,000 infants chronically infected with hepatitis B virus (HBV) annually due to infected mothers not being identified and the infant not receiving appropriate post-exposure prophylaxis
- Chronic HBV infection develops in:
 - 90% of children infected at birth
 - 30%-60% of children infected between 1-5 years of age
 - 2%-6% of children infected at 6 years of age and older

Michigan:

- 396-597 infants born to HBsAg-positive women should be identified annually
- 300 infants born to HBsAg-positive women reported annually
- 31 children (under 18 years of age) reported as HBsAg-positive annually from 1994-2004

Prevention

Prevention of HBV transmission requires the coordinated transfer of information between laboratories, primary care providers, hospitals, and the local/state health departments to ensure:

- Maternal HBsAg status is determined for all pediatric patients
- Household children/adolescent contacts of HBsAg-positive women are identified, tested and immunized if susceptible
- Infants of HBsAg-positive women receive appropriate prophylaxis and post-vaccination serology

* [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Guidelines for Viral Hepatitis Surveillance and Case Management, January 2005.](#)